

PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Awards Over \$6 Million for Municipal Park Projects

Funding Will Help 19 Communities Develop Parks and Outdoor Recreation Space

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Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

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BOSTON — The Baker-Polito Administration today awarded \$6,412,900 in grant funding for park and recreation improvements in 19 Massachusetts communities. The grants, administered through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant program and funded through the capital budget, will be used to help municipalities develop new parks, renovate existing parks, and acquire 13.85 acres of land for park and outdoor recreation purposes.

“Investing in these important park projects will make our parks safer, increase recreational opportunities, and improve access for people of all abilities,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “Our Administration is proud to help communities acquire new parkland to provide their residents with beautiful places to enjoy the great outdoors with friends and family.”

“Improving the quality of parks across the Commonwealth makes our communities more livable, supports local economies and promotes healthier lifestyles,” **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**. “The Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities program is an important tool for ensuring all Massachusetts families have access to parks and recreational opportunities close to home.”

The PARC Program was established in 1977 to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. Any community with an up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan is eligible to apply for the program.

“The great local projects being awarded through the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities program today will provide the opportunity to communities to come together and spend time outside,” **said EEA Secretary Matthew Beaton**. “The Baker-Polito Administration has prioritized investing in parks and outdoor recreational amenities to ensure residents of all ages and abilities are able to get outside and enjoy recreational resources.”

There are two categories of PARC grants: the Small Town grant category for towns with less than 35,000 residents, with a maximum grant award of \$100,000, and a separate category for cities and towns with more than 35,000 residents, which has a \$400,000 grant award maximum.

Municipality	Project Name	Project Description	Grant Award
Aquinnah	Overlook Park	The project will include improving pathways, reducing impervious surfaces by removing hardpan and asphalt, restoring natural grades, adding a boardwalk and viewing platform, and adding a handrail along steep portions of the path.	\$70,200
Boston	Harambee Park, Phase II	The project will include the reconstruction and reorientation of two multipurpose fields, the extension of a pedestrian pathway network, installation of a rain garden or infiltration system to treat storm water, and an amphitheater for community-activating special events.	\$400,000
Boston (park located in Burlington)	Mary Cummings Park	The project includes the construction of a parking area with an information kiosk and interpretive signage at the trailhead, the development of a picnic lawn, the construction of a community garden with raised beds, improvements to 6,900 feet of trail with way-finding signage, a wetlands boardwalk and interpretive trail, and the restoration of the Central Field.	\$324,940
Chelsea	Eden Street Park	The project will include the installation of two new play structures with poured in place rubber surfacing; three un-programmed, passive hardscaped areas with ADA-compliant game tables, picnic tables, and	\$400,000

benches; new bicycle racks and water fountains; the replacement of fencing and entry gates; the rehabilitation of site utilities; the reconstruction of one perimeter retaining wall; and the installation of lighting and a new water feature.

Easthampton	Mt. Tom North Trailhead Park	The project includes the acquisition of a 12.2 acre parcel that will serve as a park at the trailhead to the New England Scenic Trail, and include educational kiosks, a fresh drinking water source, and a small walking loop.	\$400,000
Holyoke	Pouliot Pool	The project includes the demolition and reconstruction of Pouliot Pool with a shade structure and small water spray/apparatus for younger swimmers.	\$400,000
Lawrence	O'Neill Park Renovation	The project will include the restoration of the natural turf soccer field, the renovation of the basketball courts, path system, and park entries.	\$400,000
Leominster	Mechanic Street Park Phase II	The project will include the second phase of a park development project focused on walking, space to play, picnicking, and general leisure.	\$399,399
Millville	Centennial Park	The project will include the creation of a perimeter walking path, aesthetic pathway lighting, custom benches, recycling receptacles, and landscape enhancements,	\$51,112

New Bedford	River's End Park Phase 2	The project will include the installation of café style tables and a shade structure, as well as planting additional trees and native species, and a water play area.	\$48,749
North Adams	Brayton Field Improvements	The project will include the renovation of the basketball court, restoration of the baseball field, the addition of a new backstop and multi-activity field, along with a perimeter path, a shade structure or pavilion with picnic tables, benches, shade trees, and other landscaping, a small parking lot, and a rain garden and community garden with educational signage.	\$318,500
Pittsfield	West Side Riverway Park	The project will include ADA compliant walking paths, pedestrian plazas, benches, lighting, an open air pavilion and observation platform adjacent to the river, a kayak/canoe launch, educational signage, and planting of 60 trees.	\$400,000
Provincetown	Hall Waterfront Park and Beach Property Acquisition	The project will include the acquisition of 0.3 acres of land with 110 feet of beach frontage on Provincetown Harbor.	\$400,000
Quincy	Kincaide Park	The project will include the addition of a soccer field, track facilities, improvements to the basketball courts, and a splash pad.	\$400,000

Salem	Gallows Hill Park	The project includes enhancements to the trail network, reconstruction of the skate park, and upgrades to the baseball field.	\$400,000
Somerville	Prospect Hill Park Phase 2	The project will include the incorporation of accessible, large-scale historic interpretation features into the park's physical design and ecological restoration and landscape management.	\$400,000
Springfield	Emily Bill Park	The project includes an inclusive playground and swings, universal access to the park, including a walking loop through the playground, park amenities, a picnic pavilion and tables, and tree planting and landscaping.	\$400,000
Worcester	Crompton Park Renovations Phase 3	The project includes upgrading current walkways to ADA accessible ones; renovation of an existing basketball court; adding a new basketball court; upgrading the court lighting system, electrical service, and current drainage; and the replacement of benches.	\$400,000
Yarmouth	Mill Creek Park	The project includes the acquisition of a 1.35 acre parcel currently home to a dilapidated hotel that will be removed after acquisition to enable the site to be connected to two adjacent parks with a waterfront vista.	\$400,000

“This grant funding will enable the town of Provincetown to purchase this important piece of waterfront access space,” **said State Representative Sarah Peake (D-Provincetown).**

“The purchase of this property was overwhelming approved by the Town Meeting, so to

receive this \$400,000 grant to complete the purchase is incredibly important.

Provincetown has one of the most beautiful natural harbors and waterfronts in the Commonwealth. It's wonderful that people will now be able to enjoy its beauty from this property."

"Mary Cummings Park is a valuable jewel in an area surrounded by intense and ongoing development," **said State Senator Cindy F. Friedman (D-Arlington)**. "I'm pleased that the PARC program funds will be used to improve parking, increase access to outdoor recreation, and develop a community garden at the park to enhance the overall experience for our residents. These improvements will further encourage members of our community to get outside and enjoy all that Burlington has to offer."

"Investing in our municipal parks is a vital part of creating functional and livable spaces for all residents in the Commonwealth. Community parks provide residents with the ability to not only enjoy beautiful spaces, but meet and interact with others in the town with their families," **said State Senator Donald Humason (R-Westfield)**.

"The State funds to restore Pouliot Pool are critical to move this project forward. I know it will be welcome news for the residents of Holyoke to have access to this pool and spray park in the hot summer month," **said State Representative Aaron Vega (D-Holyoke)**.

"Ensuring safe outdoor activities throughout the State is critical and even more needed in our Urban centers."

"Our parks and open space on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket give visitors and residents alike the chance to see and experience some of the most breathtaking coastline in New England," **said State Senator Julian Cyr (D-Truro)**. "Today's grants are an important investment in the preservation of our region's natural habitats to be used for recreation and enjoyment for years to come."

"We are proud to live in a Commonwealth that values open space and the opportunity it provides for our residents to spend some time in the quiet of nature. The improvements these grants will provide will allow more people to enjoy the great opportunities that exist right in our local communities," **said State Representative Kenneth Gordon (D-Bedford)**. "For more than 100 years, Mary Cummings Park has provided local residents and visitors an opportunity to enjoy nature trails, open space and solitude. This grant will

make it easier for people to access the park and view the many species of animals and plant life that thrives in this natural setting."

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